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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3001
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6962
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9345
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5420
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7558
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0631
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2504
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2193
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8543
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9091
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000869

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ARAB SUMMIT AND UNREST
IN TIBET

1. LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's Yomiuri gave top play to the police finding that a U.S. sailor hinted at his involvement in the March 19 murder of a taxi driver in Yokosuka during a phone call to an acquaintance that night.

2. "Absence of Some Leaders Exposes Schism" The liberal Asahi's Damascus-based reporter wrote (3/30): "It was quite unusual that leaders of major members of the Arab League skipped a summit. The conference, originally meant to play up the league's unity, exposes an internal schism and highlighted the group's inability to solve its own problems."

3. "Arab League Hints at Review of Middle East Peace Plan" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri reported from Damascus (3/31): "The Arab League summit concluded on Sunday with the adoption of a declaration hinting at a review of a comprehensive peace offer to Israel. As leaders of almost half the members, including the pro-U.S. Saudi Arabia, skipped the session to protest Syria's policy toward Lebanon, the division within the league became more pronounced, prompting such anti-U.S. states as Syria to oppose the Middle East peace process.... It cannot be denied that Washington's hostile policy toward Damascus has made it more inflexible, encouraged it to move closer to Iran, and prompted it to back away from the peace process."

4. "Japan Should Press China to Hold Dialogue" The conservative Sankei editorialized (3/31): "The option

of boycotting the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics is not intended to humiliate China. Just as the British and French leaders have said that what is needed at this moment is genuine dialogue for reconciliation between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama, the threat of a boycott is intended to encourage dialogue, which is the only way to tamp down the situation.... Japan's presence in this affair remains small.... Prime Minister Fukuda needs to tell Chinese President Hu that the Olympics should not be marred by Beijing's human rights violations."

SCHIEFFER